

Collaborative Endeavors

Sally W. Schwarz, MS, RPh, BCNP, SNMMI President

During my year as president of SNMMI, I have been privileged to represent the society in a variety of collaborative efforts to solve critical problems affecting health care. I have focused on 4 initiatives in particular; an update is provided below.

The Lancet Oncology Cancer Moonshot Commission

In 2016, I was asked to serve as the cocommissioner of *The Lancet Oncology Cancer Moonshot Commission*, representing SNMMI and Washington University (St. Louis, MO). This commission launched in 2016 in response to the White House Cancer Moonshot, which is doubling national efforts and resources to develop cancer cures.

The commission, established in consultation with the White House, will build on a report issued by the Blue Ribbon Panel that advised the U.S. National Cancer Advisory Board on the opportunities that could be accelerated under this billion-dollar initiative. The commission is exploring more deeply the underlying cancer burden and research landscape in the United States, as well as the initial impact of the Moonshot initiative on research activities and collaborations. It will then propose specific research and funding priorities to help accelerate Moonshot plans. It has been an honor to participate in this collaborative effort and to help define the role that nuclear medicine and molecular imaging will have in the final plan.

High-Level Group on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes (HLG-MR)

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency created the HLG-MR in 2009. The group regularly reviews the global ^{99}Mo market demand and available production capacity. Its most recent report concluded: "Overall, the current irradiator and processor supply chain capacity should be sufficient and, if well maintained, planned and scheduled, be able to manage an unplanned outage of a reactor, or a processor throughout the whole period to 2021." The U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published an independent report stating that "there is a substantial (>50%) likelihood of severe molybdenum-99/technetium-99m supply shortages after October 2016, lasting at least until current global suppliers complete their planned capacity expansions." Both reports indicate a period of increased risk to the ^{99}Mo supply, although the HLG-MR findings present a more optimistic projection that supply will be able to meet demand.

Quality Systems Personnel Training Program (QSPTP)

The accurate manufacture and release of radiopharmaceuticals depend on skilled personnel cross-trained in elements of pharmacy and chemistry. SNMMI's new QSPTP program will address the need to educate, train, and develop individuals in good manufacturing process, aseptic technique, regulatory requirements, chemistry and radiopharmaceutical formulation, dosimetry, and quality control release (including understanding of analytical instrumentation). The QSPTP task force is now developing detailed modules for each area of expertise, and SNMMI has secured some funding for the training program. The program will not initially offer continuing education, although this could be added later. A certification exam will also be developed in a later phase.



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MS, RPh, BCNP**

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International Collaborations

The 4th biannual Sino-American Conference was held in conjunction with SNMMI's Mid-Winter Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. This educational and scientific event, a partnership between SNMMI and the Chinese Society of Nuclear Medicine, was first held in Beijing, China, in 2011. This relationship is an important part of strengthening global cooperation in the field.

The Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative brings together leaders from 13 nuclear medicine organizations (including SNMMI) from around the world to discuss challenges and promises for nuclear medicine now and in the future. For its first project, the group completed a 2-part report on *Standardization of Administered Activities in Pediatric Nuclear Medicine*. The second project focuses on the availability, use, access issues, and impediments to the use of diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals globally. SNMMI shared preliminary U.S. data at the European Association of Nuclear Medicine meeting in October and is working to finalize that data over the next several months.

SNMMI's Annual Meeting is fast approaching. I cannot stress enough the importance of global collaboration to nuclear medicine and molecular imaging advances for the benefit of patients everywhere. We must make every effort to strengthen international cooperation and partnerships. I hope to see you June 10–14 in Denver!